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Department of Medical Genetics

April 7, 1957

Dear Dave: *Pukins*

I'm sorry to have missed you this trip. I thought I saw Doty in a back row at a lecture at Berkeley, but there was too much of a jam to verify.

I hope Victor has passed on my correspondence, though I gathered from Sam Gross that he's been away much of the time. Would you tell him (Vic) that I tried to call him, and was sorry to have mistimed on seeing him and Cliff.

At any rate, we have thought it best to narrow the range of choice to Berkeley and Madison. Life was getting intolerably complex-- you may not have heard that Harvard was in the picture too. We are presumably not coming to Stanford then, but we might end up at Berkeley, and if so I hope there will be no great obstacle to closer ties with people at Stanford like Cliff and yourself.

We had great fun in France and Britain, fortunately only a few hours in Glasgow. What a dismal place! Esther found Paris quite exciting; my own bid was for London as a dignified orderly place. But mainly, we had so many friends we never felt very far from home.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Joshua
Joshua Lederberg

P.S. I am still no less hopeful than before that you will get a first-class Biochemistry department. Perhaps because he is such an obvious choice, Kornberg's name is already in many people's minds. It would be poor diplomacy to let any rumor develop and reach Art too long before he has official notice of it, assuming you will eventually veer in that direction. It might convey the (I hope) wrong idea of indecision.

In Cliff Grobstein, Stanford has gotten one of the best. I hope as an alternative to myself, that Stanford will still go after a geneticist who, while furthering an independent program, will still have a breadth of interest than can excite the Biology students. I have already urged Luca Cavalli to Twitty in the strongest terms. While realizing that there are many other worthy possibilities, he comes to my mind as the strongest appointment that Stanford could now make.

J.